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Document No. 1

Review of this document by CIA has determined that

☐ CIA has no objection to declass

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Authority: HR 70-2

☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest

EDIC Case No. 23

Control No. 460234

8 November 1956

SUBJECT

014 APR 1980 Reviewer 018645

Review of Sino-Soviet Bloc Supply, Technology and Possible Military Applications of Polyethylene.

REQUESTING AGENCY AND DATE

CIA, 9 October 1956

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF INFORMATION

Open

PROPOSED USE

This study is to be used in connection with a proposed U.S. review, on behalf of EDAC WG I, of the strategic rating of item 3750 in order to determine:

- a) Whether the present rating of the more strategic types or grades of polyethylene is adequate in view of possible uses as a dielectric, a radiation shield and a component of jet and missile fuels as well as other military applications.
- b) Whether it is feasible to identify and define these more strategic types or grades for export control purposes.

REFERENCES

WG I D-3750.2 of 10 September 1956; WG I D-3750.3 of 24 September 1956; CIA Preliminary contribution to Chemical Task Group of EDAC WG I of 30 October 1956; TOPOL 440 of 20 September 1956; TOPOL A-47 of 12 October 1956; POLTO A-75 of 8 August 1956; POLTO A-157 of 28 September 1956; COCOM Document No. 2269.

BACKGROUND

The UK has requested the views of PC governments on its proposed disclosure to the Soviet Union of techniques for the manufacture of polyethylene. In order to avoid decontrol of types or grades

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believed to have important military applications, the EDAC community has undertaken to study the feasibility of redefining the item. At the 17th meeting of EDIC, it was agreed that a case should be established on this subject.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION DESIRED

1. A technical review of the military applications and production methods of various types and grades of polyethylene.
2. An intelligence study of Bloc supply, technology and military applications, with special reference to the technical review.

This request is circulated to EDIC members for information prior to consideration at the next EDIC meeting. Members are requested to comment on the nature and scope of the proposed study, and on agency production responsibilities.



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Acting Chairman

Distribution:

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